

HEAVEN'S METAL

VOLUME I
ISSUE # 3

50¢



Featuring:
THE DANIEL BAND



"We are providing, in musical form, the alternative which men and women of all ages and cultures desperately need."
--Tony Rossi of The Daniel Band



Coming out of Toronto like a storm is The Daniel Band. These rockers are self-proclaimed "Billy Grahams at 110 decibels." They send their audience spinning backwards when they simultaneously strike the first chord of their opening number. They sound similar to early Rush because they do quick numbers and slow down for melodic songs.

The Daniel Band has 3 albums out to date: ON ROCK (Their best in my opinion), STRAIGHT AHEAD, and RUN FROM THE DARKNESS. The Daniel Band started about six years ago playing as a coffee house band. At that time the band was known to play soft ballad music and country rock. Soon their demand increased and the band took the time to write their own material.

"We came out with a totally different approach, really heavy and hard rock-right down to the center," says Dan McCabe. Dan is the bassist, the "Geddy Lee-impersonator" of the band and also composes some of the songs.

Tony Rossi is the hot lead guitarist, arranger, composer and vocalist for some of the numbers. Even Tony reaches some Geddy Lee-like highs with his voice. Tony's been playing guitar since he was 12!

Bill Findlay plays rhythm guitar and keyboards, as well as composing music.

Matt Del Duca beats the drums for this group. He has several years of professional experience behind him, including some work with Ian Crichtin, the guitarist for Saga.

In concert The Daniel Band commands your attention with an authority. By the end of the show, either Tony or Dan will preach for about half an hour. "Our message is right there in the songs, but we also verbally stand there and preach, making it very clear that tonight at this concert you have this opportunity to face Jesus Christ head on and deal with it. We even have an altar call like Billy Graham has," says Dan.

The Daniel Band entered into spiritual warfare the day they accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, but now they're facing more opposition from the devil because they are taking the message out into Satan's territory.

"From the moment we decided on the 'Run From The Darkness' concept for the album it seemed that Satan was out to oppose it. Many things happened in the printing of the logo's for the album, lyric sheet, that were too wierd, and too similar to be coincidental-to the point that even the owner of the pressing plant (who was not a Christian), told us that it seemed to him that 'somebody' didn't want us to use this concept! Even events connected with the printing of the first batch of T-shirts were similar and indicated that we were in for a battle. Again it was comforting to rely on God's Word, and know that: 'greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world,' as we took direct aim at a cultural style which is characterized by so much darkness. The more we invade the enemy's territory, the greater the opposition, and sad to say, Satan often uses the attitudes of professing Christians to diminish the effectiveness of spreading the Gospel. But we praise God for the inroads into the 'heavy metal' culture that He has given us through the album and video."

The Daniel Band is one of the many bands today that gets questions like "How can God use rock music?" all the time. "Some people think it's irreverant," says Tony Rossi, "but I think they're limiting God. God is the God of all cultures and of all men and women and we've seen the fruit born of this ministry."

"All musicians have a responsibility to the public," says Tony. "The lyrics for most secular rock songs are irresponsible. Music has always been a powerful motivator instilling sadness and happiness. But a lot of rock, pop and country musicians are using it to promote a lot of things that are wrong."

"Who on earth is here to tell us God only likes classical or God only likes country and western?" asks Dan. "We're not in a position to tell anyone what God likes. We really don't know. All we know is He likes it

when we glorify Him in whatever form it comes in."

Tony recently wrote an apologetic to explain The Daniel Band's ministry. First he addresses the lyrics in today's music. "Most listeners will deny that they are influenced by lyrics; however, things which were considered highly unthinkable, or at least highly immoral 15 years ago, have become quite common place.

"Why blame this on music? I don't think we can blame everything on the music scene, but there are some important variables to be considered. First, musicians have become the heroes of today's young people. Secondly, many of these entertainers lead wanton, reckless lives. Thirdly, these same 'stars' tend to advocate the kind of life they live in their songs. This is dangerous because young people are very impressionable and like to mimic their heroes. As a result, the moral climate has sunk so low that it's small wonder that teenage pregnancies, drug abuse and suicide show a salient increase in the statistics.

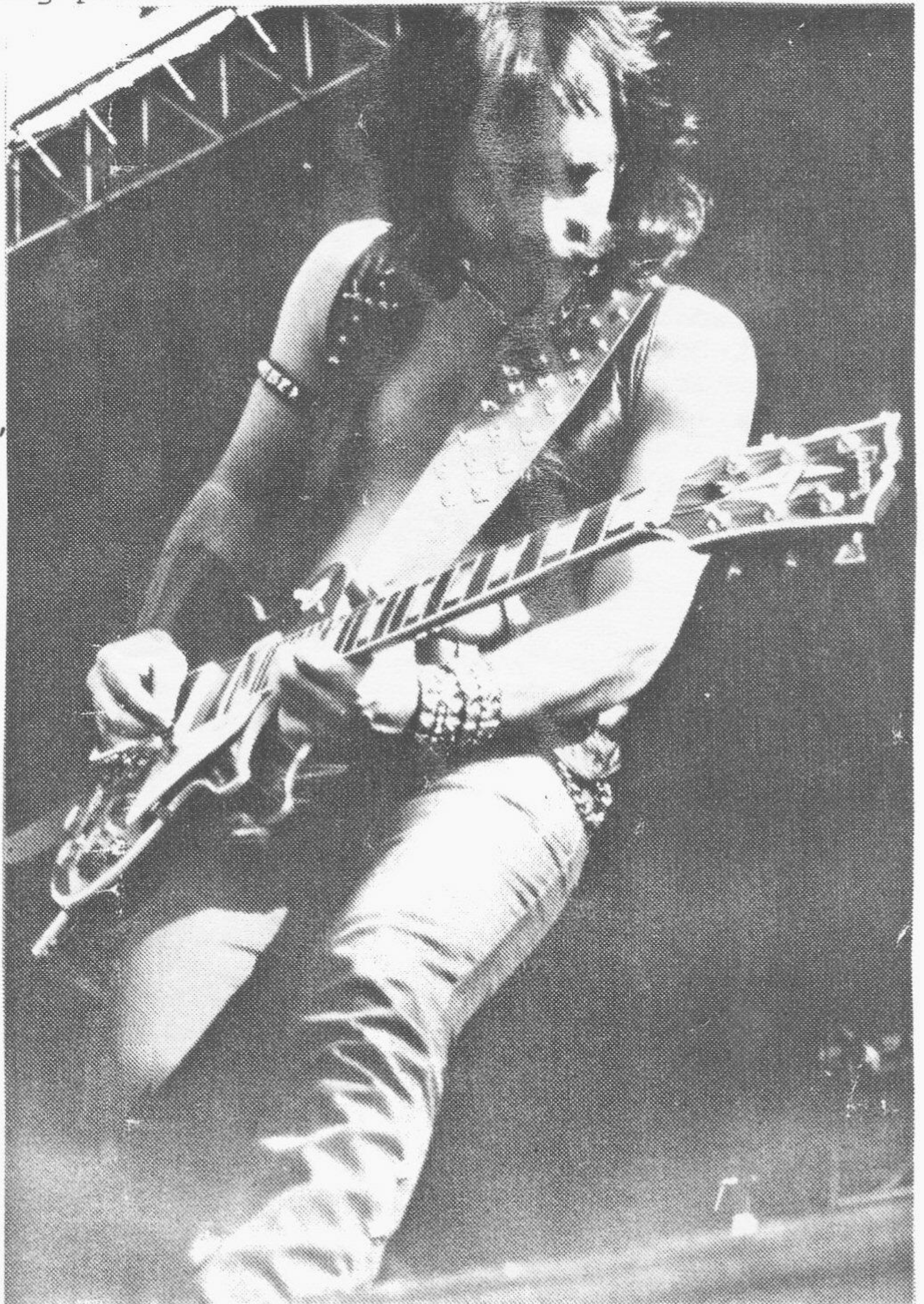
"This is where musicians such as The Daniel Band fulfill a definite need. We are offering a message of Truth rather than half truths, we are offering scriptural authority rather than the irresponsible philosophies of life offered by many 'secular' musicians. We are offering true love rather than self-centered pleasure seeking. We are offering eternal salvation by peace with God through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

"We use rock music for the simple reason that it's what young people are listening to. We try to produce good quality contemporary music that will hold its own as a source of listening pleasure. It is a vehicle for our wholesome, life-giving message."

The Daniel Band has been working on a new album that should be released around the beginning of March '86. Five of the new tunes have already been recorded. Stylistically, the new album will continue along the lines of "Run From The Darkness," with a bit more emphasis on production quality, and possibly a bit of a "new music" flavour to some of the tunes. But headbangers, rest assured: There'll be no compromise on the rock!

"We're all excited with the results so far. We are continually encouraged by the many letters we receive from young people all over the continent who tell us they are sharing our albums with their non-Christian friends, and using them as a means of witnessing to the Love of Christ. We pray that God will continue to bless us with songs that He can use for His glory."

They recently have cut a video of "Walk On The Water," from RUN FROM THE DARKNESS. The theme of the video is about a Doubting Thomas, who is a prison inmate that initially rejects God's message. Later he is transformed thru a surrealistic baptism scene. They rented an old jail to film the video. Continued on page 5



I had the opportunity to speak with Adam Alvarez of the band GOLGATHA. They are a Christian hea-veee metal band from San Francisco's Bay Area. They play in clubs and other "secular" arenas. They do some talking between songs to let people know what they are playing for.

From our conversation, the biggest characteristic trait that shown thru Adam was his compassion for the lost.

"We see a lot of hurting people. They're brought up in broken families and don't have anywhere to look for truth and love but their friends. They usually end up doing drugs because for them it gives them love and acceptance from their friends. All people want is to be accepted."

Adam was nearly choked with tears while he continued to describe the lost people he's come into contact with. It's great to see God reveal His heart to Adam this way, because God's heart bleeds for these people.

Adam and the band have a good idea of who they are and who they are ministering to. "We are going out to where the kids are. We preach a powerful message of hope. It says in the Bible to go out and preach the Word. Music is a powerful tool to do that. Like everything else, Satan has perverted it in many ways. A lot of kids listen to metal records 'til the grooves wear out. As soon as they get home they play a record. This is a form



Albert Whalen Tony Crider Gary Gladson Adam Alvarez
Drums Singer Guitar Bass

Meditation. You can't say the lyrics don't effect you.

"If we play in a church, anyone who wouldn't ordinarily go to a church meeting won't be there. We can reach the backslidden Christian, though. We can help them. For the believer, all we are is entertainment, which is good. We give them good music to listen to.

"Our purpose is to reach the lost. They need what we have to offer. We are dealing with secular record people because they can get us out to the people who need to hear us. Whereas a Christian label will distribute us to people who already know the Lord.

"In fact, two of the songs on our 'Prisoner' tape will be featured on a Christian metal compilation album. A secular label from Burbank, Ca. is going to release it

nationally. 'Follow Me' will be one of the two on there."

Adam used to live the lie, as I did, that he could do his own thing and get right with God at the last minute. "I found out it doesn't work that way," said Adam.

"When I got saved I put down music for four months. I joined the orchestra at our church. At least I could play for the Lord. Then a guy from our youth group asked me to go with him to a Christian concert. I didn't know anything about Christian rock. They were called '180.' The Lord has turned their lives around 180 degrees. The Lord called me back to heavy metal to reach that audience. We've been playing with bands called 'Sacreilig' and others that aren't of the Lord. The audiences we play for are definitely lost.

**Continued on page 5

DANIEL BAND Continued:

The video should fare well with the general audience. It isn't cluttered with religious symbols. "We didn't make a conscious decision to suppress the message," says Dan. "The religious trappings were taken away because we don't think that has much to do with Christianity anyway."

The producer of the video, Peter Cresswell, said, "A lot of thought went into making it mainstream heavy metal. These guys have to compete with the Van Halens of the world. What's the point of preaching to the converted?" Cresswell seems to understand what The Daniel Band's purpose is (He's not born-again).

The band has had numerous opportunities to witness to many non-Christians in the media both during and since the taping of the video.

They want your prayers! "Apart from the recording of the rest of the album, we would really appreciate your ongoing prayers for the band as individuals--as we struggle with the pressures of holding down full time jobs and travelling 2 or 3 weekends a month. (Bill Findlay programs computers, Dan McCabe is an exterminator, Matt Del Duca is a welder and Tony Rossi is a grade four teacher.) We recognize that it is essential that we are not so busy ministering that we don't have time for our own spiritual growth, and spending time with our families. Many of you have written and told us that you are praying for us daily, and we really believe that sometimes this is probably the only thing that keeps us going. Please pray too, that the Lord will keep us united, and that Satan will not be able to get in and keep us from completing the task that God has given us."

They will be playing in Philadelphia, PA. on November 30th and in St. Louis on December 7th.

GOLGATHA Continued:

"The other day I had a revelation that all we are here to do is tell the people of the good news of the gospel and they have a choice. We're not here to twist their arm and make 'em get saved."

***Do you ever get hassled by the club owners and managers?

"No, as long as we pull in a crowd, they're happy. You know, all they're concerned about is the money."

***How about the future of your sound. Is it going to be melodic or straight-ahead hard rock or a mixture of the two?

"We're going to mix the two. It will be a lot like what's on the 'Prisoner' demo. Tell your readers to order the tape now and before December because it will be out of print soon. It will be a collector's item, so get 'em while they're hot." --Editor-Order the tape now.

If you want to order the "Prisoner" tape, Golgatha's debut EP, send \$5 to: Golgatha Ent. 14377 Bancroft Ave. 23, San Leandro, CA. 94577. For bookings or info, call (415) 430-0665.

Pray for Golgatha. "Lift up the members of the band and the situations we deal with. That we'd find favor with the secular music people we deal with. We deal with a lot of people who don't hear people tell them about the Lord very often."

*****COMMENTS*****

Dear Doug: First off, my compliments to you guys on a job well done. I loved the Stryper album review of SOLDIERS UNDER COMMAND! Second, please keep us posted on the Ozzy and Mylon Lefevre development. Where in the world can I get 100% Proof-THE POWER AND THE GLORY? I have searched and tried to order but with no luck. Could you give a label or address please. Same problem with Prophet and Ian Ripper. How about some news on our buddy Darrell Mansfield, doesn't he qualify for heavy metal? Why not a concert calendar for those hard to find dates. Keep up the great work!!! Under His Command, Mark Morton, Bremert

EDITOR--Thanks for the compliments. I depend on the Lord and put WA. everything I have into this newsletter, so it's a real blessing to hear your compliments. For 100% Proof, try Kosher Records c/o Larry Miller 319A N. "J" ST. Lompoc, CA 93436. Ian Ripper has no albums out yet. Prophet is on Total Experience Records and available in secular record stores only, because they are not professing Christians. Funny you should mention Darrell Mansfield. I'll ask some groups to send me their tour itineraries.



"THE JOY THAT I HAVE IN ME IS JUST INCREDIBLE!"--Jeff Olson

I was referred to Trouble by an Enigma Records representative in the Summer of '84. I freaked out when I heard their heavy distorted guitars with a screaming voice belting out the "wrath of God" lyrics.

I saw them play in Austin in the Fall of '84. I was excited to see small symbols of Christianity at their show. They started off the set by playing the crucifixion scene from the "Jesus Christ Superstar" soundtrack. Bruce, their guitarist, placed a small cross above his amplifier.

These symbols were smashed when I saw the bass player smoke a joint offered to him and he flipped the audience off, other members of the band were guzzling beer.

I had the chance to talk with Jeff Olson, the drummer, after the concert. He was glad to talk to a "Jesus person." My friends and I prayed, with Jeff and Bruce, that they would live a holy life and would minister to many lost kids.

Jeff Olson is no longer with the band. "I left the band 2 or 3 weeks ago and am serving the Lord and putting all my trust in Him.

"All my life I was fortunate enough to be brought up in an avid Christian family. That is really beautiful. My parents are great. They were very free and rapped to the Lord. I went to Bible camp, mini-teen, and I was in a youth group. The only thing that led me away from the Lord was drugs and alcohol. He was always in my heart. I think the Lord always kept a conscious level in there of right and wrong, saying 'Hey, this is wrong. Can't you feel it?' Sometimes I would ignore it. I'd wanna serve myself instead. After awhile, as I got older it (Holy Spirit's voice) got so much out of the way, I almost forgot about Him.

"I was serving more than the Lord. I've been serving my own pleasures like pot, beer and other things that aren't the Lord's way. Coming into Trouble helped a lot. It decreased the drug problem because I knew we were starting to help people that are in to what we're doing. I thought to myself, 'How can anyone having a problem help someone with a problem?' But I guess it kinda worked.

"The specific thing that brought me to the Lord was the Lord calling me again and again. I met with many, many Christians along the way. Every time I saw a Christian when I was on the road, I just had to go talk to them. Sometimes I could be truthful with them and say 'I still get high.' Most of the time I couldn't. I noticed that 'I can't even talk to a Christian friend and tell them I get high-there's something wrong here.'

"The book Power For Living helped me a lot. It got me to start writing a prayer journal and getting more fellowship. This was right near the end. Basically it was a series of events and God's Spirit telling me what's right and wrong. There was not one true evangelist that did it, besides Jesus Himself. God used a lot of things to get me there: The Holy Spirit's return, the complete remembrance of youth group, my friends here, Randy Shoelf, the Trouble rap sessions about the Lord when we first formed, Robert Leebrick (A Heaven's Metal subscriber) telling me how he came to the Lord and we shared the goodness of the Lord with each other. It was great. The big change happened while I was still smoking and serving the two ways (myself and the Lord). I thought I could moderate my pot smoking and still be right with the Lord. I was no longer capable of being truthful to older people that I loved to share things with at church. I couldn't tell them that I'd just smoked a joint this morning and now I'm at church praising the Lord. That was untruthful. My conscious came in and said 'You're doing something wrong. It's time. Come on.' It was the Lord calling me. The time came for me to completely give myself to the Lord.

"After awhile Trouble was not saying that they were a completely Christian band. That kinda hit me, cause we were, you know, putting scriptures of the Lord on albums. I was thinking, 'some people were led to witness with that music,' which is great. Praise the Lord for that! Someone from Canada became born again because of Trouble! But the band just did not have a zeal for the Lord and for becoming saved themselves. Everyone gets called and

everyone has the opportunity to serve Him. Some people don't right away. They need the prayer. What you and your readers did was great. You could see the prayer work, you know, it hit me!

"We left on great terms. Trouble's still going to be a positive message to hopefully bring kids out of what they're in. I think God has a purpose for 'em. Trouble is there for a reason.

"I just felt that there's something else for me. I've got to do something completely for God. I don't want to do anything anymore unless it's got to do with Jesus as the Lord. No matter if it's walking down the street. Whatever. Mowing a lawn. I mean, it's the Lord's lawn.

"The prayer for Trouble that Heaven's Metal readers did probably did a lot. It probably gave me the power to get through my selfishness and live for God first and not trying to make it as a star anymore, which was an old thing that I was following too.

"I liked the fact that I was playing in a band and could be very popular on stage. Then I thought to myself 'well, there's no need for fame anymore.' I think it'd be best to do things that make the Lord happy, 'cause that's where it's at.

"There's a lot of people that are troubled. There's a lot of things to stand for that I couldn't stand for in Trouble. Now I can stand up on issues like abortion and unwed mothers. There's a lot of hurt in the world and there's gotta be something I can do for that rather than just one specific thing in rock music.

"The Lord is leading me into various new things. I am going to go to a Christian college that has a good music and pastoral studies next Fall. I'm gonna still use my musical talent, but I'm gonna retrain. I've been a trumpet player. I'm gonna retrain in that, continue in piano and drums especially. I will continue on ministering. I wanna maybe somehow become some kind of youth minister or pastor that can travel on the road and use it in some way. The specifics aren't complete yet. I'm still praying for them. He's been leading me this far and it's going great.

"I think I can be a good witness to older people too. There's not only one set of people. A lot of people go out and just wanna be one-sided. 'Okay, I'm going to be a heavy metallor and that's all I'm going to do. I'm just going to lead people to the Lord in heavy metal, that's all I can do.' Well, I think there's a lot more than that because look at how many Christians frown on heavy metal and rock music as a ministry. Therefore, I want to prove to people that old people need love too and need ministry, of all ages. So, what we're planning to do is get out and play classical music and stuff in them senior citizen homes and maybe do a few albums for them. You know, mellower music and classical, acoustic music for them. And then, at the same time, going for the youth and rock and roll 'em with the Lord. You can't be just one-sided. All people need love and need the Lord.

"We're putting together a band. Maybe we'll be touring by the Summer. I've been working on a tune called 'Metamorphosis!' It's a really happy tune of praise and why I've changed. It's about the happiness of the change. Another song is called 'Life Force;' which is about soldiers of truth, living the life and how Jesus died for you. It's an evangelistic song. At the end it shows you how to come to the Lord and ask Him into your heart as your savior to live forever.

"The strongest I've ever felt is now. It led me to be completely drug-free and being high off the Lord. It's great! Praise His name!"

(PTL)--Barnabas will release their last album, "LITTLE FOXES," soon. The guitarist, Brian Belew, will be bringing a new band on the scene shortly.

STAND UP AND FIGHT!!! Abortion is the murder of the baby in the womb. The 2nd Chapter of Acts, Steve Camp, Steve Taylor and others came together to perform a song, all the proceeds of which go to Last Days Ministries' Americans Against Abortion group. 12" singles and cassettes cost \$5. Please make checks payable to: Americans Against Abortion, Box 70, Lindale, TX 75771-0070. (The name of the song is "Fight The Fight.")

The Darrell Mansfield Band is one of Christian rock's best. They play Southern rock with an occasional metallic bite. They have toured in The Phillipines, Hawaii and Israel, but they predominantly play in the high schools, churches and prisons in Southern California.

Darrell's testimony is very heavy. He grew up wanting attention. One day he borrowed a police uniform from a friend and directed traffic at his high school! He just wanted acceptance. He didn't do drugs. "Don't panic! It's organic Darrell Mansfield."

He was into music and started going places when he came to the point where he had to know God. He wanted to meet Jesus, but the only way he knew how was to die. He went into a church and slit his wrists and laid on the altar.

"Someone must have been praying for me that night, because I was found that night and an ambulance was sent. A policeman in the ambulance asked me 'What are you on, Son?' I replied 'Life.' He didn't know what to do. He didn't have a program for that. They taught him how to deal with heroin and acid freaks, but not this."

Someone nearby showed Darrell how he could meet Jesus. Just by praying and surrendering his life, he met the most wonderful Savior in Jesus Christ. Praise God. He is worthy!

Darrell played in a band called Gentle Faith, in the early seventies, before going solo. He released the "Get Ready" album on Polydor records, but ran into hassles because of his faith. In other words, he was mildly persecuted in a professional way. The Bible says that those who are persecuted for Jesus' namesake are doubly blessed. (Matt 5:10,11)

Since then he signed with Maranatha! Music, A&S, and Broken Records (all distributed by Word Records). HIGHER POWER, THE DARRELL MANSFIELD BAND LIVE, THE VISION, and his newest, REVELATION.

Notice the holster filled with harmonies in Darrell's picture. He uses echo with his harmonicas a lot. He is very entertaining and tells humorous stories that point out biblical truths. Speaking of the Bible, Darrell tells audience that "the Bible is the sword of the Spirit. If we only read a couple of verses a day, our sword is about as long as a toothpick. When the devil comes to attack how are you going to fend him off?" To dramatize this Darrell prances forward and says "Get away fella," and shakes a toothpick at the audience. At another point Darrell dons a gorilla mask to give a visual demonstration of the theory of evolution.

Eric Turner provides the tasty guitar work. I believe he told me that he's been playing guitar for 13 years. The bass player is Jeff Nicholson and the new drummer is Teri Bryant--the only one in the band with short hair.

Darrell says he would much rather play nice, soft ballads rather than rock 'n' roll. His throat is raw the day after a concert.

He tells us that "there's no such thing as Christian rock. Rock music doesn't have a soul, it can't be saved. We play rock music and sing about Jesus because it is a language kids understand."



IS YOUR GRANDPA A MONKEY? Darrell @ Knott's Berry

One particularly humbling moment for Darrell and band was when they played for the Israeli soldiers that were fresh from the war in Lebanon. "Here we were just coming back from Disneyland and they had just returned from the battle zone." They played the song called JERUSALEM. "...Oh Jerusalem Why won't you believe in Him? Don't you know, can't you see? Your King is this man from Galilee?" Can you imagine singing that to a prominently Jewish audience? The Israeli government officials have told Darrell that he can play anywhere he wants in Israel! He could be one of the fulfillments of last days prophecy!

The Darrell Mansfield Band played at Cornerstone this past June. He was the last band to perform, and it was the longest set of the three day festival.

The REVELATION album has just been released and it has a lot to offer. "Jesus Will Reign" is a metal number that is a worship song and can be used for evangelism and spiritual warfare. "Jesus will reign, Holy is His Name, Worthy is the Lamb, Satan will not stand." It's a worship song for obvious reasons: it exalts Jesus. It is evangelistic because it shows who Jesus is--the Sacrificial Lamb killed for our sins. It can be use to defeat Satan because anytime you use your child-like faith to praise Jesus and declare His eternal victory, Satan can be defeated.

It is a FANTASTIC SONG! If you're ever in trouble, just start singing it. (Sing it even when you're not in trouble, sing it all the time!) It is such a great melody and it's so catchy. You will enter the prescence of God via praise and you can rest in His arms. This song builds faith, it edifies the body of Christ! Amen.

If you'd like to get Darrell's last four albums (Get Ready is out of print on Polydor Records), or book him for concerts, call The Ministry Resource Center (714) 557-2460 or write Maranatha! Music, PO Box 1396, Costa Mesa, CA 92628.

"Come on everybody and let's get together tonight. Got some tracts in my pocket and I'm really gonna witness right!

Been reading my Bible all week long and now the house is empty and my folks are all gone.

Hey! Let's have a Bible study!"

--"Bible Study" off REVELATION

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Want to trade, buy or sell something? Send the info. If you have a band you can advertise it for free in this column. Please send all moon rock samples.

***Anyone who has any DANIEL AMOS LIVE CONCERT OR RADIO/TV INTERVIEW

RECORDINGS, (new or old) that I can buy copies of; please contact Debra Anderson, 900 N.W. 5th Ave, Boca Raton, Fla 33432

***I gaurantee you'll like Paul Q-Pek's single. It is metal. I've got several left. Same price. \$1.50 (Send to Heaven's Metal)

***If you would like a copy of Dennis Welch's MAN OF STEEL album, write to: White Horse Records, 12650 Hickory Bend, Houston, TX 77070.



A newsletter covering all types of Christian music. Subscriptions are \$9.00 per year, 12 issues. Make checks/money orders payable to Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando, Fla 32810 (305) 298-6927

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NEWS FLASH!

Refuge Records will soon release a Christian metal compilation album. HEAVY RIGHTEOUS METAL is the title. Featured will be Barren Cross, an previously unreleased track by Jerusalem, 3D, Barnabas, The Daniel Band, Rez Band, Leviticus and The Front.

I recently had the chance to talk with Brian Clark of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, named after the church addressed in Revelation 3:7-13, released their debut album last year on Patmos Records (Patmos was the name of the island that John wrote Revelations from).

***What's new?

"It's really happenin'. We're doing the debut concert for SEARCH AND DESTROY, (their new album), on Saturday, November 9th in Shreveport, Louisiana. We're having a special promotion with it. The ticket price is \$8. With the ticket, when you come to the concert, you get a free copy of the new album.

"It's a concept album and it has a complete concept show that goes along with it. It's about an hour in length. It starts off with sirens and red warning lights and search lights and it never stops. In between songs we have pre-recorded taped voices that set up the next song.

"It's a story of a young guy named Bobby, who's a runaway. He's involved with drugs. We drew him as a character to portray as much of the heart and the same things kids today in America are going through.

"The story of the album is like his life up until the point where he meets Jesus Christ. It's a tremendous thing, the Lord has really blessed us with it. We're just really looking forward to taking it and doing it."

For those of you who heard the TO TELL THE TRUTH album, the next question you ask may be: "Did you improve the production on this next one?" Brian gave special thanks here to Dan Kennedy of the Cutting Edge, who gave Philadelphia's TO TELL THE TRUTH album a good review. "Anybody who gave us a good review had to kind of overlook the production. I appreciate that. He won't have to do that on this album.

"The production quality on the new album is excellent. We're so glad. The first album we recorded in a weekend. It took a day and a half. We had to do it real hurriedly and we didn't have any money to spend on it. It was tough. Real tough, but God blessed. The album got out there and had success and so we were able to go and spend a couple months on this next one and it's going to show it. The new album's real good quality, real good production. We're real proud of it in the Lord, because it's His glory and He did it, but it's so good after the first one."

***Everyone that I talked to said your Cornerstone set was hot!

"We had a real good day there at Cornerstone. The guys in Rez, especially Glenn, has helped us out a lot. Glenn and I have been talking quite a bit lately. Because of this controversy over rock and roll in Christianity, we've been singled out by a couple of the bigger ministries."

***Why do you play Christian heavy metal?

"The reason we're doing it is 'cause that's what kids are in and we wanna reach 'em wherever they're at. I used to play secular metal. I got tired of playing clubs in front of drunks.

"I was raised Catholic and I never really learned anything about the Bible. I was in a band called Survivor. It wasn't the 'Eye of the Tiger' Survivor. We had the name first. One guy tried to talk me into suing them after they made it big, but it was after I got saved. I'm a Christian and I don't want to sue anybody.

"I was checking into the Bible, and one night I just knelt down on my knees and gave it over to Him. I gave it up. It was real quiet. There wasn't an evangelistic meeting, I was just alone in my room.

"I gave music up. I wasn't sure about playing rock 'n' roll for the Lord. Most of the former members of Survivor eventually got saved. Phil Scholling was 16 at the time. About a year later the Lord brought Ronn Flowers to us, our other guitarist."

***How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for you?

"Well, that's what we want them to do more than anything, lift us up to the Lord. We're a band, we don't hardly have any money and not much equipment, as far as the big guys in rock 'n' roll go. But the Lord always seems to get us by.

"We covet their prayers, not so much for our physical needs, but as far as spiritual. Our thrust is to reach the lost. We love the church and we need the support of the church, but we wanna reach the lost. So, we play in a lot of situations that normally Christian bands don't get put into.

"So they can pray for us along those lines. That we remain strong and remain a good, solid witness. And pray for our audiences--that's the main thing."



STRYPE HYPE

Did you see Stryper on CBS's AMERICA show? They played "Makes Me Wanna Sing." They threw Bibles out to the cheering audience. The camera people were even nice enough to put the guitar solo in slow motion. The group also appeared on NBC's AMERICAN ALMANAC, which included a 5 second excerpt of Stryper's "Soldiers Under Command" video.

Did you know that Robert Sweet's \$15,000 drumkit was given to him? The Lord has moved many people to give to Stryper. Timmy Gaines was without a car for a while because of an accident. "God was

TIMOTHY GAINES IN AUSTIN, TX DURING THE "YELLOW AND BLACK ATTACK" TOUR.

teaching me about not coveting objects. I was without a car for a month and I finally praised the Lord for my situation. Later I was in a restaurant and a waitress came up and said, 'The Lord told me to give you this.' It was the keys to a brand new 1984 Fiero." Timmy joked that he still had to be careful: "The other day I caught myself washing the car when it was clean and admiring how nice it was."

"In Stryper we know that an ego is a 'no-go,'" says Robert Sweet. "What the Lord has given He can surely take away." This is a great, humble attitude for a slave of Jesus to have.

Robert share with me a vision he has. "A semi full of New Testaments." They carry a few books of Bibles with them currently. A semi full would mean at least a million Bibles. We're talking big audiences here. Let's intercede for them in prayer.

Go see them on their current US tour, (I don't have to tell you that) if they play close by, and write in with a description and/or your perceptions of the concert.

Comments continued: Dear Doug, I just received your newsletter and enjoy it very much. My favorite group is Jerusalem, thanks for your article. Where can I pick up albums by: 100% Proof, Ian Ripper, Witness, Leviticus, Barren Cross, Trouble, Against The Tide, Covenant Band, L.E.D.? These groups aren't on a major label, so if I would go to any Christian record store they probably wouldn't have any idea where to order them. Do you have a special place to order these groups? Also, thanks for your review on Prophet. I bought the album in a secular store in the "Religious" section.

I have a running correspondance with Dale Thompson from the band "Matrix" and Michael Roe from the "77's". Do you have any brothers that write you from other Christian rock bands? Keep up the good work. Stay in Him--Richard Bruno of Racine, Wis.

--EDITOR-- Look at previous reply. Witness should have their album on Morada Records out in December. For "Against The Tide, L.E.D., Covenant Band," I don't know. (Hey Doug Peterson! Why don't you write and tell us?) That's very interesting about Prophet. Pray fervently for them. I have recently talked with Refuge Records and I will soon be able to sell albums thru the mail. (All Refuge acts and also Shadow Records, Leviticus). Right now I'm not "pen-pals" with any Christian musicians. I wish I was, but I do know a lot of them. Thanks for writing.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

I was talking to two metal-heads in a record store a few days after Stryper played here. They were impressed with the show, especially the double leads played by Oz and Mike, but they didn't want to be like them. When I asked them what they meant, they said, "Well, Stryper's in a war. We don't want to get involved in that war." The fact of the matter is that they were already involved in spiritual warfare, only they were fighting for the wrong side. James 4:4 says "...Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." It's that simple. If you don't stand up for God's side, you're stuck on the side of Satan. Jesus said, in Mathew 12:30, "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters."

Everyone on Earth, since the day they were born, is in the War. Join the winning side. Jesus has "...disarmed the rulers and authorities. He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him." (Colossians 2:15)

Jesus has won the victory. Now you can know God, be His friend instead of His enemy. Just surrender your life to Jesus and let Him control you. "And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." (Romans 16:20)

-----PRAYER PROJECT-----

Pray for the songwriters. For God's anointing on them. Let's pray that each song will be effective for its audience. For example, The Daniel Band speaks so directly to the church in their song SPIRITUAL GAMES: "And the churches still go on living a luxury game; while the beggar in the street stays the same."

And Stryper speaks an urgent message to the lost in SURRENDER: "Jesus Christ is the lover of your soul. So freely surrender." These are good examples of songs bathed in prayer. Let's pray that God gives these artists songs in the same, anointed way He gave David the Psalmist his songs.

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Send \$3.00 in cash, check or money order for a one-year subscription (that's 6 issues) to HEAVEN'S METAL c/o Doug Van Pelt, 502 Texas Ave, Austin, TX 78705 (512) 482-9243 (Foreign subscriptions please send a money order or U.S. currency, because it takes so long to exchange foreign currency or checks here.)

 Record Raves: The debut EP from Barren Cross is totally hot! This is some of the most powerful metal for Jesus. The first song, "Believe" starts off with a loud pounding drum intro and jumps into a modern day anthem. The singing on this song is inspired, along with the song "Just A Touch." "Just a touch of His hand, and you'll be he-e-e-e-a-l-ed!"

This singer's voice projects so much emotion into the song. The guitars have that bite of distortion that the big-name secular bands use so well. The comparisons with Iron Maiden don't stop with the vocals with Barren Cross. The bass runs are displaying the solo-ability of the bassist.

On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd have to give this one an 8 because of its power and skill in song composing. Most of all it receives an 8 because if I gave it a 10, we would expect too much from the next album. Praise God for Barren Cross! If you would like to order this totally awesome album, do it fast. They just signed with Star Song and will remix the songs (They don't need it) and add four more on the album. This EP is available on limited edition blue vinyl (Only for the next month or so). Albums and cassettes are \$7.00 plus \$2.75 for albums and \$1.50 for cassettes for postage. Mail to"

Barren Cross, 1701 Centinela Ave., Suite # 124, Inglewood, CA 90302 (Please allow 3 wks. for delivery) For booking info call: (213) 215-3877

"zis band reely soundz like Iron Maiden."--Mikhail Sweet Gorbachev